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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,485	04/01/2004	Richard Lamp	07319-110001	2329
20985	7590	12/11/2006	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC			BUI, HUNG S	
P.O. BOX 1022			ART UNIT	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			PAPER NUMBER	

2841

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/817,485

Applicant(s)

LAMP, RICHARD

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08/05/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chemel et al. [US 2005/0248299] in view of Khemakhem et al. [US 6,717,486].

Regarding claim 1, Chemel et al. disclose a lighting system manager (figures 1-4), having a power supply (108), at least one logic assembly (103), connected to receive an output of signal from a first signal carrying connector (124), and to process the signal to produce individual output signals intended for plural separate lighting fixtures (figure 1), and producing a plurality of outputs intended for a plurality of different lighting devices, the at least one logic assembly receiving power for its operation from the output of the power supply; and an output power from the power supply and an output from the logic assembly being each connected to one of the signal and power carrying connectors (connectors connected with LED 104, figure 1), with each of the second connectors being connected to one of the individual output signals from the logic assembly, and to the output power from the power supply.

Chemel et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the lighting system into a housing that has a plurality of connectors being mounted on two opposite walls.

Khemakhem et al. disclose a housing (figures 5, 8 or 10) having at least two walls on the housing and including a plurality of connectors (34, 22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lighting system within the housing of Khemakhem et al., as suggested by Chemel, for the purpose of protecting the lighting system.

Regarding claims 2-3, Chemel et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the specific number of pins in the connectors for carrying signals.

Khemakhem et al. disclose the connector (34) have fewer pins than the connectors (22, figure 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connectors with their specific pins of Khemakhem et al. with the lighting system of Chemel et al., for the purpose of providing multiple output signals to connect to multiple connectors and saving energy so that this structure can form the desired address or slogan.

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Chemel et al., as modified, disclose wherein the logic assembly operates on DMX based signals (paragraph 0154).

Regarding claim 5, Chemel et al., as modified, disclose wherein the logic assembly separates time division multiplexed signals to produce individual outputs for each of a plurality of outputs (paragraph 0007).

Regarding claims 6-8, it would necessarily perform the recited method steps in the use of the above-mentioned assembly.

Regarding claim 9, Chemel et al. in view of Khemakhem et al. disclose a portable power and control device, referring the above claim 1.

Chemel et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the specific number of pins of the connectors being mounted on the housing such as 4 or 5 pins.

The specific number of pins of the connectors would have been an obvious design consideration based on the type of signals intended to be used within the lighting system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the specific connector pins in Chemel et al., as modified, for the purpose of increasing signal transfer.

Regarding claim 10, Chemel et al., as modified, discloses wherein the control signals are a single line signal which includes a plurality of control signals intended for use with a plurality of different lights (paragraph 00023).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-1984. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/5/06

Hung Bui

Art Unit 2841


DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800
12/8/06